



St. Louis Audubon Society



Tale Feathers

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FEBRUARY 1997

State Ornithologist to Speak at Feb. 14 Joint Meeting with WGNSS

by Jim Holsen

Using the title "How Are the Birds?," Jim D. Wilson, state ornithologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will discuss 30 years of the breeding bird survey and its implications for the survival of forest and grassland birds at a joint meeting with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society.

The meeting will be held at 8 pm on Friday, February 14, in the West Room of the St. Louis County Library, Headquarters Building, on Lindbergh Boulevard just south of Clayton Road, across the street from the Plaza Frontenac shopping center. Meeting rooms are on the north side of the building. Mark your calendar now for this important event.

We know from studies in the Shawnee National Forest of southern Illinois and elsewhere that many of our neotropical birds, such as warblers, are declining in population--particularly those species that require deep forest cover for protection from predators. Fragmented forests on their North American breeding grounds are as big a threat to these birds as the decimation of the forests in their wintering territories in Central and South America. The Central Ozarks, however, with good forest cover, still provide good nesting habitat and are looked upon as a "source" for the birds that are found over wide areas of neighboring states.

More recently, attention has shifted to the grassland birds that are also suffering from loss of habitat. As reported in a recent edition of *The New York Times*, the disappearance of grassland habitat in our eastern states has led to almost unbelievable declines in the populations of some birds. For instance, breeding bird surveys over 30 years show that in Connecticut the population of the

eastern meadowlark has declined by 97 percent, in New York the grasshopper sparrow has declined by 97 percent, and in Vermont the field sparrow has declined by 92 percent.

Here in Missouri we may not be seeing such precipitous declines, but we do have problems, particularly with grassland birds. Will we be able to save our populations of familiar forest and grassland birds? Jim Wilson, as manager of the breeding bird survey in Missouri, will sum up what he thinks lies ahead for us.

Changes to By-Laws to be Voted on at April Annual Dinner Meeting

by Jim Holsen

Under the leadership of Dave Tylka, a past president, St. Louis Audubon is preparing a new strategic plan to guide its activities over the next 5 years. Interested members have been meeting monthly to review our goals and objectives and our strategies for reaching them. We view our mission as two-faceted--education and conservation. Protection of birds and wildlife habitat is our first objective.

As part of this study, Jerry Miller, also a past president, has been leading the strategic planning committee in a review of our Society's by-laws. As a result of this study, the committee is submitting revised by-laws for approval by the membership at the annual dinner meeting on Friday, April 18. Proposed changes clarify the duties of the officers and directors so that the objectives of the Society can be more readily realized.

Another objective of the revised by-laws is to involve the entire membership in the election of officers and directors. In the past, major decisions affecting the Society have been made at the annual dinner meeting, where relatively few voting members are present. The new by-laws provide for a mail-in vote for the election of new officers and directors by all members of the Society.

In This Issue

"How Are the Birds?" — Joint Meeting Program	page 1
Birding Classes	page 3
Revised By-Laws	Insert
Bird Seed Order Form	page 5
Annual Dinner Reservation Form	page 6
Safari Opportunities	
June & September	page 4
October	page 7

The proposed new by-laws are included in this newsletter as an insert. Please read this information carefully and come to the annual dinner meeting on April 18 prepared to vote your opinion.

Don't Miss Audubon's Second Bird Seed Sale

St. Louis Audubon is offering its second bird seed sale of the season on February 22 at the Wild Bird Center, 9815 Watson Road in Crestwood.

The snow and ice have kept bird feeders busy. If winter birds have depleted your store of seed, you now have an opportunity to stock up again. With a few months of cold weather remaining, you may need additional seed.

The bird seed order form and more details are included on page 5 of this newsletter. Make your order out today, and thank you for your support!



From Your President

by Jim Holsen

Volunteers Needed for Audubon Activities

Audubon participates with other local organizations in a number of events related to our interests in education and conservation. Often Audubon has a table or booth where we can talk to people, distribute helpful information, and sometimes sell calendars, t-shirts, books, and pamphlets. We need volunteers to help with these booths.

Three such events are coming up in the near future. On Saturday, March 15, the Missouri Department of Conservation is sponsoring Wetlands for Kids at the Busch Conservation Area near Weldon Springs. On Saturday, April 5, the Missouri Botanical Garden will sponsor a Witness Exhibit, related to saving endangered species. And on Sunday, April 13, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is sponsoring the Wings of Spring program at the Riverlands Environmental Area, near the new lock and dam on the Mississippi at Alton.

These programs offer a pleasant way to contribute to Audubon's environmental goals of saving birds and wildlife habitat and, at the same time, working with other people with similar motives. Springtime is a busy time, and those who are helping now sorely need some assistance. If you can help at 1 or more of these events, please call Mary Smith at 949-7871 for details.

Award Nominations Requested

Nominations for either or both the St. Louis Audubon Society Conservationist of the Year or the Robert J. Terry Award should be sent by March 1 to:

**Julie Wells
1004 Sanders
Crestwood, MO 63126**

These awards will be presented at Audubon's annual dinner meeting on April 18.

Strategic Planning Date Changed for February

The date for the February meeting of the strategic planning committee has been changed to 7:30 pm on Monday evening, February 17. Normally, the committee meets at the Audubon office in Kirkwood on the third Tuesday of each month.

This committee, led by Dave Tylka, has no formal membership; everyone is invited to attend. In February the committee will prepare for a day-long retreat where it hopes to outline the main principles of our next 5-year plan. The Audubon office is at 325 North Kirkwood Road in Kirkwood. We need all the help we can get. Call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410, for more information.



Collection of Mounted Birds Taking Shape

With thanks to Bill Brandhorst for his skilled craftsmanship, St. Louis Audubon is acquiring a fine collection of mounted birds for its educational and related activities. Thanks go also to taxidermists Paul and Carl Schwarz of the Schwarz Studio for their fine workmanship and for the discount offered to Audubon. Bill handled the mounting program and also crafted the wood and plastic enclosures that will enable us to take the mounted specimens from place to place.

We now have about 20 specimens. The most impressive are a great horned owl and a Cooper's hawk, but all are excellent representatives of our common birds. The collection will help us in our efforts to save birds and wildlife habitat.

A note of warning from Bill Brandhorst: Our birds are mounted, not stuffed. Bill tells us that was made very clear to him when he once told Paul Schwarz that a certain fish should be stuffed. It was mounted.

Get to Know . . .

Mary Dueren

(This is the fifteenth in a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

You can ask my mother—I've always been engrossed by the natural world. For as long as I can remember, the weather was my first love. Watching raging thunderstorms is both terrifying and exhilarating at the same time.

Our family spent many weekends at my grandfather's farm near Troy, Missouri. We hiked, fished, and explored. Later, I learned the art of canoeing, and even more avenues of the natural world opened.

My husband of almost 23 years, Paul, and I have enjoyed many wonderful campouts and float trips with family and friends. Our daughter, Johanna, attends MIZZOU and is showing signs of developing an interest in birds and gardening.

My love of birds grew out of a school project. While working the midnight shift and trying to complete my bachelor's degree in biology, I enrolled in an animal behavior class. One of the assignments was to observe and document behaviors of an animal that was not the family pet. How was I going to accomplish this while working the night shift? My brilliant husband suggested that he could build a bird feeder and that I could observe their behavior. I was hooked! I developed an entire semester's work around the northern cardinal.

Before the semester was over, I had joined the National Audubon Society and had also attended Eagle Days at Clarksville. In response to a membership survey in 1987, I was contacted by Bill Salsgiver, then the vice president for conservation, to assist at an information booth.

I have served as vice president for education and now as secretary. I am also serving on a state-wide committee for the development of a field office in Missouri. You can often find me volunteering in one of our booths or retrieving calls from the phone line.

I have met so many wonderful people through my association with St. Louis Audubon. Everyone has a genuine concern about the environment. If you ask my mother, she will tell you I have gone to the birds!!

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Audubon Birding Trips

Bring binoculars, bird field guide, & dress for field conditions & weather. Coaching & instruction for all levels. Call leader for confirmation & more information.

Leaders for birding trips listed below:
Paul Bauer (H# 921-3972) and Jim Malone (H# 536-1119).

Riverlands/Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge -- *Saturday, February 15*, at 9 am. Meet at Riverlands--in St. Charles Co. near Alton, IL. Take Hwy 367 north of I-270, across Missouri River to right on last road before Mississippi River. Go east from gas station, turn right on gravel road to Teal Pond parking lot. *Target birds at Riverlands:* gulls, raptors/possibly owls, longspurs/possibly snow buntings, eagles, & waterfowl. *Along Great River Road:* waterfowl like oldsquaws & scoters. *Target birds at Mark Twain:* sparrows, eagles, waterfowl (particularly snow geese with possibly Ross' geese & white-fronts).

Busch Conservation Area -- *Sunday, March 2*, at 8 am. In St. Charles Co. Take Hwy 94 south of US 40, 1 mile to right on Hwy D. Go 1.5 miles to entrance on right. Pass through HQ area & gate to Hampton Lake parking lot. *Target birds:* winter finches, raptors, woodpeckers, waterfowl, & any early migrating shorebird or passerine arrivals.

Riverlands -- *Saturday, March 22*, at 8 am. See directions in earlier entry.

Busch Conservation Area/Lost Valley -- *Saturday, April 5*, at 8 am. Meet at Busch--see directions in earlier entry.

Woodcock/Owl Prowl at Busch Conservation Area -- *Saturday, April 12*, at 6:30 pm. See directions in earlier entry. Bring flashlight, boots, & dress for weather. Leader: Jim Malone, H# 536-1119.

Spanish Lake Park -- *Sunday, April 20*, at 8 am. Take I-270 to Bellefontaine Rd. Go north on Bellefontaine to Spanish Pond Rd. Turn right on Spanish Pond & follow road to 3rd park entrance. Turn right into parking lot.

Weekend Trip to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in SE Missouri -- *Saturday & Sunday, April 26 & 27*. Mingo is considered outstanding for birding at all times of the year, but best of all in early spring. About 200 miles south of St. Louis, it is about 1 week ahead of St. Louis for migrating birds in spring. A visit in late April is like birding in St. Louis in early May! This trip is one way to double the available time to enjoy spring migrants & wildflowers. Save these dates & join us for a special adventure. Look for full details in April newsletter.

Local Birdathon Adventures to Find Birds -- *Saturday, May 3*. We need 10 or more small groups of volunteer birders, willing to find 10 or more sponsors. These birding groups (or individuals) will select their own route & try to find as many birds as possible in 1 day. All donations collected from sponsors will help fund several of our important education projects. Yes, a fun way to have a fund raiser! Look for full details in April newsletter.

Audubon-Related Activities

Joint General Membership Meeting of St. Louis Audubon & Webster Groves Nature Study Society -- *Friday, February 14*, at 8 pm in West Room of St. Louis County Library, Headquarters Building, on Lindbergh Blvd. near Clayton Rd., opposite Plaza Frontenac. Program "How Are the Birds?" presented by Jim D. Wilson, state ornithologist with MO Conservation Dept. (See related article on page 1.)

Audubon Winter Bird Seed Sale -- *Saturday, February 22*, at the Wild Bird Center, 9815 Watson Rd. in Crestwood, from 10 am to 2 pm. (See order form & more info. on page 5.)

NAS West Central Regional Spring River Conference -- *Thursday through Monday, March 13-17*, in Kearney, Nebraska. Call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410, for registration form & more info. (See related article on page 5.)

St. Louis Audubon Annual Dinner Meeting -- *Friday, April 18*, at Viking Conference Center in Sunset Hills. Cash bar at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:30 pm. (See page 6 for reservation form.)

Special Events

Wetlands for Kids -- *Saturday, March 15*, at Busch Conservation Area, sponsored by MO Conservation Department. Call Jim Garr at 441-4554 for details. St. Louis Audubon will have booth; call Mary Smith, H# 949-7871, to volunteer.

Eagle Days at Lone Elk County Park -- *Saturday, March 22*, sponsored by World Bird Sanctuary. For more info., call 225-4390.

Witness Exhibit -- *Saturday, April 5*, sponsored by Missouri Botanical Garden. Event's focus on saving endangered species. For more info., call Cindy Hilke at 521-1216. St. Louis Audubon will have booth; call Mary Smith, H# 949-7871, to volunteer.

Wings of Spring -- *Sunday, April 13*, at Riverlands Environmental Area, sponsored by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For more info., call Julie Ziino, 355-6585, at Corps office. St. Louis Audubon will have booth; call Mary Smith, H# 949-7871, to volunteer.

Birding Classes Offered through St. Louis Community College — Instructors from St. Louis Audubon Society

Meramec Community College -- *April 3 & 5*. Instructor: Tom Day. Call Meramec's Continuing Education office for details & registration, 984-7777.

Florissant Valley Community College -- *April 9*. Instructors: Mary Dueren & Mary Smith. Call Florissant Valley's Continuing Education office for details & registration, 595-4444.

Mehlville High School -- *April 24 & 26*. Instructor: Tom Day. Call Meramec's Continuing Education office, 984-7777.

CLASSES INCLUDE BASIC BIRDWATCHING, BACKYARD FEEDING, BINOCULARS, & IDENTIFICATION TIPS.

Tom's 2nd sessions are bird walks.

The Conservation Corner

Missouri Audubon Council Selects 1997 Legislative Priorities

by Jim Holsen

The Missouri Audubon Council, representing the 14 Missouri Audubon Societies, met in Jefferson City on January 11 to select its legislative priorities for the spring 1997 session of the Missouri General Assembly. With Scott Penman, our legislative liaison, the Council discussed pending bills and selected those of greatest interest to Audubon. The priorities may change as the session proceeds.

This seems to be a quiet year for environmental legislation. Some old bills that were defeated last year are popping up again and will require our attention. But no new threats are seen on the horizon. On the other hand, several desirable bills are in the drafting stage, but their success in the legislature is yet to be tested.

The Council felt that Audubon should be taking a more positive stance on environmental legislation, taking part in proposing new legislation and not merely opposing bills that we do not like. Accordingly, the 4 selected priorities include 2 bills that Audubon will support and 2 that it opposes. Several other bills are on the watch list--we will keep an eye on them to see how they develop during the session.

Audubon's priorities for the spring session are the following:

1. **Clean Air Amendments** -- Work with the Sierra Club to remove a provision from Missouri's Clean Air Bill which requires that Missouri regulations be "no stricter than" federal regulations. Under this provision, Missouri cannot regulate a threat which is not addressed in federal legislation. A bill to accomplish this will be filed.
2. **Floodplain Management (Senate Bill SB 176)** -- Support this bill for tighter control over development on the floodplain, an attempt to comply with federal regulations.

3. **Environmental Audit Privilege (Senate Bill SB 48)** -- Oppose this bill, which is similar to one that was successfully defeated last year. If a person or company which has violated environmental laws makes an "audit" of its actions and reports it to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with a plan to remedy the situation, the report may be kept secret (privileged). A person injured by the violation would find it difficult to determine the nature of the violation and to press claims against the offender. This bill is supported by Associated Industries of Missouri, a lobbying group for some of Missouri's largest corporations.

4. **Risk Analysis** -- Audubon will oppose a proposed bill, not yet introduced, which would require DNR to prepare a risk, or cost/benefit, analysis before issuing new regulations. The problem here is that the costs of complying with regulations are relatively easy to quantify, but it is much more difficult to put a dollar amount on the value of the environmental benefits that are realized. In fact, that is almost never done. This bill would make it nearly impossible for DNR to issue new regulations.

The Audubon Council will "watch" proposed bills on intensive hog farms and so-called "takings" legislation. Takings bills purport to reimburse developers and other landowners for loss of value when environmental regulations prohibit certain acts, such as filling in wetlands.

St. Louis Audubon East African Safaris

by Paul Bauer

ONLY A FEW OPENINGS REMAIN FOR THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON-SPONSORED BIRDING AND WILDLIFE KENYA SAFARIS IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER.

The itinerary of parks visited is very similar to the co-sponsored October trip to Kenya highlighted on page 7; however, we will have an exceptional birding guide with over 30 years of experience in Kenya and Uganda. We have used his valued services for the last 3 years. Typically on these 2-week trips, we will see over 40 species of mammals and more than 300 species of birds. The fun never stops!



Most of the mammals are seen and photographed at "point-blank" range--and often in huge numbers. In June the birds are most active, and easy to find, because they are building nests or feeding young. In September the huge migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra swell from nearly 100,000 to about 1.5 million. In turn, these herds are followed by many lions, cheetahs, and numerous birds of prey.

This is our fourth year to offer adventure trips to East Africa. Why do we continue to go back? There is so much to see. No natural spectacle on earth compares with a Kenya safari because of the incredible wildlife--the observation opportunities of thousands of birds and mammals still living in their natural habitat. Also the price we

Stay Up-to-Date on National Conservation Issues!

Mary Lou Miller is submitting to the St. Louis Audubon board of directors each month a summary of national conservation issues in the news for that month.

If you would like a copy each month, please call Mary Lou with your name, address, and phone number. You can leave a message on her answering machine if you spell out your name and address. Please speak slowly—or you can write to her.

Mary Lou Miller
3927 Lucas & Hunt Road
St. Louis, MO 63121
H# 314/389-3969

Here's a chance to get information on all kinds of environmental issues from a variety of sources!

have obtained for our groups is an exceptional value.

Extension trips are available for birders to the unique Kakamega rain forest in western Kenya and to the northern fresh water Lake Baringo region. Also a separate extension to Tanzania is available.

To request a detailed, color itinerary, call Paul Bauer at 314/921-3972. Also plan to attend either of the 2 preview meetings at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Ridgeway Center.

(See related article on co-sponsored October safari trip on page 7.)

**1997 Spring River Conference
on the Platte River
Scheduled for March**

by Jim Holsen

Timed to coincide with the spectacular gathering of thousands of sandhill cranes along the Platte River in central Nebraska, the annual Audubon Spring River Conference is scheduled for March 13 through 17 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney, Nebraska.

The 1997 Conference will emphasize the Platte and Missouri River ecosystems, with attention also to the

Mississippi and Niobrara Rivers. The program includes several workshops and an evening banquet on Saturday. Youth programs are available.

Field trips to view the cranes at the sanctuary will be available in the early morning (leaving at 4:45 am) and early evening (4:30-7:30 pm) hours. Field trips to wetlands to observe waterfowl will also be offered.

Call Jim Holsen (H# 822-0410) for registration forms and additional information. Persons wishing to visit the sanctuary at other times should contact the sanctuary for information and reservations; phone 308/468-5282.

**THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
WINTER BIRD SEED SALE**



Saturday, February 22, 10 am to 2 pm
Wild Bird Center
9815 Watson Road (Watson Center) Crestwood



The St. Louis Audubon Society is again conducting a bird seed sale to benefit the chapter's conservation and education programs. Get your winter's supply of bird seed from St. Louis Audubon--encourage your friends, neighbors, and relatives to make orders, also.

This year 4 different seed types are available: 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of black oil-type sunflower seed, 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of premium mix bird seed, 10-lb. bags of thistle/niger seed, and 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of safflower seed.

To order, please complete the order form below. **You will need to pick up your bird seed on February 22 at the Wild Bird Center between 10 am and 2 pm, or your seed will be forfeited and resold.** One week prior to the sale, a postcard will be sent to you to verify that your order and check were received and to remind you of the pick-up place and time.

If you have any questions, please call Dianne Johnson (H# 458-4369), Sue Smith (H# 256-7986), or Sue Jones (H# 721-0819). **Your order and check must be received by February 15.** Checks will not be cashed until after the pick-up date.

(Please detach here; mail bottom portion along with your check.)

BIRD SEED ORDER FORM

(Please print)

Name _____ Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Address _____

# of 25-lb. bags sunflower seed	_____	X	\$8	@	=	_____
# of 50-lb. bags sunflower seed	_____	X	\$14	@	=	_____
# of 25-lb. bags premium mix	_____	X	\$8	@	=	_____
# of 50-lb. bags premium mix	_____	X	\$14	@	=	_____
# of 10-lb. bags thistle/niger	_____	X	\$13	@	=	_____
# of 25-lb. bags safflower	_____	X	\$13	@	=	_____
# of 50-lb. bags safflower	_____	X	\$24	@	=	_____

**(Mail early to ensure receipt
of order by February 15--
THANKS!)**

Total Amount (check enclosed) _____

Mail order & check to:

BIRD SEED
Sue Jones
7425 Parkdale Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Please make checks payable to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION FORM

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

Reservations requests must be received by Friday, April 11.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
CASH BAR: 6:30 pm
DINNER: 7:30 pm

VIKING CONFERENCE CENTER
10709 WATSON ROAD
SUNSET HILLS, MO

Please reserve _____ places at \$22 each for the Annual Dinner.

My check payable to **St. Louis Audubon Society** is enclosed.

Please reserve _____ chicken chardonnay dinner(s), _____ pork tenderloin dinner(s), and/or _____ pasta primavera dinner(s).

Please complete information below, including phone number. You will receive a call confirming your reservation.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Mail this form & check to:

Mary Lou Miller
3927 Lucas & Hunt Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Please send your Annual Dinner Reservation in as early as possible. Watch for speaker information in the April edition of *Tale Feathers*.



The Education Corner

Audubon Camp Scholarships Available

by Julie Wells

The St. Louis Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer 2 scholarships to the Audubon ecology camps run by the National Audubon Society. The camps are located in Connecticut, Maine, and Wyoming. Attendance at an Audubon camp can enrich your life.

The scholarships cover the cost of the 6- or 7-day session fee. Transportation costs are the responsibility of the selected recipients.

Educators are especially encouraged to apply. Camp scholarship information is typically sent to the science coordinators of the St. Louis school districts in January. Interested applicants unable to obtain this information from their science coordinators

should contact:

Julie Wells
1004 Sanders
Crestwood, MO 63126
H# 962-2093

Anyone interested in attending a camp on his or her own or obtaining information on other U.S. and international Audubon ecology workshops should contact:

National Audubon Society
Camps and Ecology Workshops
613 Riversville Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06831
203/869-2017

Weather Station Donated to Powder Valley

by Mary Lou Miller

Recently, the St. Louis Audubon Society donated to Powder Valley Nature Center our weather station that had previously been located at our Education Center on Lewis Road in Crescent.

The weather station consisted of a wooden box on legs that housed all the instruments and sat in the front lawn there. We donated not only the station itself but all the instruments. We hope the community will be able to learn more about weather reporting with the station located at Powder Valley.

This weather station was originally given to St. Louis Audubon by Betty Williams in memory of her father, Mr. Harry Theis, and instruments and maintenance were also given as a memorial by Betty through the years.

Winter Birding in St. Louis . . . Layers, Layers, Layers

by Charlene Malone

December proved to be a quiet end to the record-breaking year of 1996 (304 total species seen). Sustained cold weather in November and December drove out many of the usual passerines like sparrows. Christmas bird counts were unremarkable, with low numbers of different species and total numbers of birds seen. Despite disappointing birding in some areas, Carlyle Lake and the Riverlands area continued to be productive.

December highlights at Carlyle Lake (Clinton/Bond County, IL):

- *an immature snowy owl at Keysport Marina
- *first winter Thayer's and lesser black-backed gulls, pomarine jaegers, and a pair of oldsquaw at the Carlyle Dam
- *rough-legged hawk, northern shrike, ring-necked pheasant, and large numbers of Lapland longspurs, and horned larks along the county roads on the west side of the lake

Highlights at the Riverlands/Melvin Price Dam area (St. Charles County, MO/Alton, IL):

- *2 immature pomarine jaegers frequently harassing gulls above the dam
- *a resident peregrine falcon harassing the jaegers
- *oldsquaws, common loon, and all 3 scoter species at Riverlands (as the waterfowl numbers grew)
- *5 or more short-eared owls hunting along Weiss Road at dusk
- *as many as 8 trumpeter swans frequenting the area near Harbor Point and Riverlands' Teal Pond

January started out with birders in short sleeves and light jackets, only to have the harsh reality of winter reassert itself with single-digit temperatures and wind chills in the -20 to -30 degree range. As the ponds and lakes froze, waterfowl headed south for open water, and the arctic blasts of wind drove other birds into the area.

Highlights at Riverlands:

- *a few white-fronted geese mixing with the Canada geese at Teal Pond
- *increased numbers and variety of gulls including Bonaparte's, lesser black-backed, glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's and great black-backed species among the thousands of herring and ring-billed gulls
- *a dark phase rough-legged hawk and

rather tardy merlin joining northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, short-eared owls, and a peregrine falcon over the fields at Riverlands

*also present in these fields, several large flocks of horned larks, Lapland longspurs, and at least 2 snow buntings in the middle of the month

*the numbers of bald eagles along the river rising, with 151 eagles reported in the Riverlands/Melvin Price Dam area on January 18, as the weather grew colder

After the 7" snowfall on January 15, a late afternoon trip to Busch Conservation Area yielded a dark phase rough-legged hawk, northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, an unidentified accipiter hawk, a possible peregrine falcon, and a barred owl. The Fallen Oak trail feeders had large numbers of birds, including fox sparrows and purple finches. A pine siskin and purple finches were also seen at the Elsah, Illinois, feeders.

See the Upcoming Events section on page 3 for future Audubon trips scheduled for February 15 and March 2, with listings of target birds. As for all Audubon trips, dress for the weather (layers, layers, layers)!

KENYA: A SAFARI ADVENTURE

AN EXCEPTIONAL WILDLIFE SAFARI CO-SPONSORED BY ST. LOUIS AUDUBON
AND THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
OCTOBER 19-31, 1997

- Travel to East Africa and explore Kenya, its rich culture and magnificent wildlife. Start your African safari adventure in Nairobi with options to visit the home of Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*, Giraffe Manor, or Nairobi National Park.
- Then travel to the Ark, a lodge in the Aberdare Mountains. From the observation decks at the Ark view animals, including bushbuck, elephant, and Cape buffalo as they come to sample the salt lick.
- Journey further north to visit the dry scrublands in the dramatic Samburu Game Reserve. Samburu is home to animals not seen in other parts of Kenya such as the long-necked gerenuk, the tiny dik-dik, and Grevy's zebra.
- Drive through scenic Kikuyu country to overnight at Sweetwaters Tented Camp and take an evening game drive to view nocturnal animals like the aardvark and genet.
- Descend into the picturesque Great Rift Valley on the way to Lake Nakuru, a shallow alkaline lake with a wealth of birdlife, including vast flocks of flamingoes. View the magnificent acacia forest surrounding the lake, while looking for rhino and the rare Rothschild's giraffe.
- Finally, travel to the Masai Mara, the northern part of the Serengeti Plain, with its acacia-dotted grasslands and vast herds of zebra and wildebeest, lion prides, and families of elephants. Overnight in exclusive tented camps in the Mara and experience a night game drive and an escorted nature walk as well as daily game drives.
- An optional extension to Tanzania is also available.

*To request a detailed, color itinerary, call Paul Bauer at 314/921-3972, or call the Missouri Botanical Garden, Education Division, at 314/577-9506 during normal business hours.

*Attend either of 2 **preview meetings** at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Ridgeway Center. A stunning, color slide program will help you visualize the animals, birds, native groups, and expansive scenery you will experience in Kenya. Also we will attempt to answer your questions.

***Tuesday, March 4**
7:30 pm
Botanical Room

***Thursday, April 17**
7:30 pm
Missouri Room

These preview meetings are free to all; come and enjoy.

Officers 1996-97

Jim Holsen	President	822-0410
Dianne Johnson	VP-Education	458-4369
	VP-Conservation	
Arthur Montgomery	VP-Finance	822-1215
Mary Lou Miller	Treasurer	389-3969
Mary Dueren	Secretary	576-1473

Board of Directors

Mike Arduser		968-8479
Bill Brandhorst	Wildlife Mountings	965-7269
Dallas Cox		878-1080
Tom Day	Annual Dinner/Meeting	962-4064
Susanne Greenlee	Butterfly Count Coordinator	727-6044
Bill Groth, Jr.		843-7440
James Jennings	Investment Committee	532-1725
Sara Lenoe		351-4565
Jim Malone	Birding	536-1119
Dale Ponce		394-6011
Rex Schmidt		861-2173
Chris Serbia	Resource Center Network Rep.	207-0451
Mary Smith	Booths & Exhibits	949-7871
Sue Smith	Programs	256-7986
Dannia Stevens		618/451-1255
Larry Terrell		291-1792
Julie Wells	Awards & Scholarships	962-2093

Other Chairpeople/Coordinators

Paul Bauer	Birding	921-3972
Christy Beckmann	MO Environmental Fund	822-2428
Jerry Castillon	Operation Clean Stream	391-7586
Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
	Newsletter Mailing	
Sue Jones	Bird Seed Sale Committee	721-0819
LaVerne Koyne	Message Center Phone Line	878-9125
Christine Matthews	Condolences, Illnesses, Etc.	240-4563
Dorothy Mill	Community Club Awards	966-6163
Jerry Miller	Investment Committee	389-3969
Janice Patton	Print Library	921-4875
Karen Turner	Resource Center Network Rep.	771-9350
	SLEEN Representative	
Dave Tylka	Strategic Planning Committee	984-7712

Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call 314/822-6595.

Katherine Chambers Hurt in Fall

by Mary Lou Miller

On December 30, Katherine Chambers, honorary board member and our membership chair, fell in front of her home and broke her hip. She was taken to Barnes Jewish Hospital where the hip was set and pinned. After some recovery time at the Barnes Extended Care of Clayton, Katherine returned home on January 25.

Katherine is doing well and would enjoy hearing from you. Her home address is 7024 Forsyth, St. Louis, MO 63105.

Her comment to me the week after she fell was, "This is such a nuisance," which is so typical of Katherine. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Don't Forget!

February 14 — Joint Meeting, Audubon and WGNSS, presentation of "*How Are the Birds?*"

Need a Membership Form?

Please use the one in the last issue or the form that will return in the next issue of *Tale Feathers*.

Newsletter Information

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Please send any article submission for the next edition by **March 14, 1997** to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Rd., Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).



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